Caticugan, Dangola, Naga, and Talo-ot, was 578 according to my census made in 1951. However, there was no way to determine the population of the other sitios except by additional censuses, and time did not permit. Barrio or sitio locations are also indicated on the map, the majority being near the coast, rivers, or the National Road.[76]

The census figures are misleading if one attempts to analyse the decline or rise of the population of individual barrios in Siaton. Even though the inhabitants state and all evidence indicates that the population of Caticugan (including Naga, Talo-ot and Dangola) has increased considerably since 1900, the census figures show a decrease. Sitios often are transferred from one barrio district to another between censuses and no records are made of these changes. This is the explanation for the very rapid increase of population of Barrio Sumaliring between 1918 and 1939, from 360 persons to 1,273. Some sitios counted in 1918 as part of the poblacion were transferred to Sumaliring before 1939.

I tried to untangle this situation for Siaton municipality but abandoned it as hopeless. However, to

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[76] The locations of many barrios and sitios were made by questioning informants. The writer did not visit all of them. There is no certainty that all of them are shown and the location of many is approximate on Plate XVI. Some settlements are shown north of Siaton's municipal boundary for the people consider them part of their municipality. The barrios in the region along the Siaton River valley to Apoloy and the strip through which the National Road passes are the most accurately located communities on this map.

illustrate the complexities of the changes and to offer partial explanations, Camboay and Napacao were once sitios of Canaway; Cabangahan and Bonawon sitios of Giliga-on; Maloh and Datag sitios of the poblacion; Mantiquil, Sandolot, and Calanan sitios of Casala-an; and Tayak a sitio of Bonbonon. The dates of the various transfers were unknown by the inhabitants.

The census figures indicate that the poblacion and barrios Bonbonon, Caticugan, Giliga-on, Inalad, and Mantuyop--all bordering the present National Road--are the oldest settlements. The census data also suggest strongly that the Siaton River valley was relatively thickly settled at an early date; in 1903 there were nearly 1,000 persons in the somewhat isolated vicinity of Casala-an. The history of this area, presented in Chapter III, supports this tentative conclusion.

Barrio Bonawon's population increased more rapidly than any other locality in Siaton municipality. From 824 inhabitants in 1918 the Bonawon vicinity grew to 2,393 persons by 1948. Between 1939 and 1948, for example, the population doubled. As a case study special attention was given to this vicinity. Once a sitio of Barrio Giliga-on, Bonawon was relatively isolated from the eastern part of the municipality due to inadequate transportation. Probably not until 1930 did busses reach Bonawon. Bonawon has fertile soils and, being

p. 100

near the sea, the people can both farm and fish. Improved road conditions and the desire for land probably led many to move to this "frontier" before the last war. 161

During the war and Japanese occupation of Negros, Bonawon was ideally situated. It was too far from either Tolong or Siaton to be patrolled. People from Zamboanguita, Bacong and Cebu (particularly Bato and Santander) came to Bonawon. As the new persons settled in Bonawon, they prospered. Many who arrived as tenants are now small landowners. They attracted relatives and friends from Negros and Cebu. Others married and decided to settle permanently in the locality after the war. These factors appear to be the primary reasons for the increase in the population of Bonawon. According to local informants, no new territory was added to Bonawon between 1939 and 1948.[78] 166 161

Table X[1] illustrates the relation of Siaton municipality to the remainder of the province in regard to barrio district and poblacion population sizes. The average population of the 21 municipalities of Negros Oriental in 1948 was 18,390 which is almost the same as that of Siaton. The chart indicates that the average 161

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[78] In 1952 a proposal was approved by the municipal council of Siaton to create a new barrio, Tambo, within Bonawon district. The proposal was prompted because "Bonawon is over-populated and one barrio lieutenant cannot attend properly to his duties." [632]

1 [See p. 101, tbt. 161. --Analyst]

175*
161

a total estimate of 3,600 Christian Filipinos. Nine cabezas lived in Bonbonon, three in Giliga-on and the remainder in the general vicinity of the poblacion. The Recollect fathers in Negros had increased from six in 1850 to thirty in 1880, another sign of the growing population of the island.

The Local Spanish Administration in Siaton

175*
632

Gadiane's manuscript gives one insight into the local Spanish administration of Siaton during the latter part of the 19th century. In many ways the present administration of Siaton municipality is patterned on the Spanish system, with a mayor instead of a capitan and barrio lieutenant for the cabeza de barangay.

175*
622

The cabezas de barangays were the agents or representatives of the capitan in the various barrios under the latter's jurisdiction. Gadiane writes that the cabeza originally served for only one year in Siaton, then for two, and finally their term was lengthened to three years. Zaide describes the office and functions of the cabeza.

> The pueblos [poblacions in the sense municipality is used today] were divided into barangays [barrios], each under a chief called cabeza de barangay. Originally the office of the cabeza was hereditary, then eventually elective. All cabezas paid no tribute and, after serving for some time, they became members of the town aristocracy--the principalia. The chief duty of the cabeza was to collect taxes in his barangay.[77]

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[77] Zaide, The Philippines Since Pre-Spanish Times, p. 176.